

ORDER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

1650.20

12/23/92

**SUBJ: SUPPORT FOR SENSITIVE NATIONAL DEFENSE AND
SENSITIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS**

1. PURPOSE. This order establishes procedures to be followed by FAA headquarters and field elements if they receive requests by U.S. Federal, state or local agencies to provide support to sensitive national defense and sensitive law enforcement operations.

2. DISTRIBUTION. This order is distributed to the branch level in Washington, to the division level in the regions, to the branch level in the regional Airway Facilities, Aviation Medical, Airports, Air Traffic, Aircraft Certification, Civil Aviation Security, and Flight Standards Divisions and to the Regional Counsel and International Aviation Officer; a standard distribution to the Civil Aviation Security Field Offices; to the division level Civil Aviation Security Division at the Aeronautical Center and to the staff level Civil Aviation Security Staff at the FAA Technical Center; to all supervisors in the Flight Inspection Field Offices; to all International Field offices and Flight Standards District Offices; and a limited distribution to all aircraft certification offices.

3. BACKGROUND.

a. In the past, there have been instances where U.S. Federal, state and local agencies have requested and received technical, logistical and administrative assistance and support for sensitive national defense and sensitive law enforcement operations from various FAA headquarters and regional elements. This support was often conducted without the knowledge and approval of appropriate FAA headquarters elements. In addition, some FAA employees had consented to secrecy agreements with these outside agencies. As a result, key headquarters personnel have not always had a complete picture of the total FAA involvement in some of these support projects.

b. FAA headquarters continues to support a number of these agencies in a variety of sensitive national defense and sensitive law enforcement operations. FAA assistance in many of these operations is vital to the enforcement of U.S. laws and the achievement of national policy objectives.

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4. PROCEDURES.

a. As it is in the national interest for FAA to support these operations, the Assistant Administrator for Civil Aviation Security (ACS-1) has been charged by the Administrator with national-level oversight. In addition, the Office of Civil Aviation Security Intelligence (ACI), has been given centralized coordination responsibilities for all requests by other U.S. Federal, state and local agencies for FAA support for sensitive national defense and sensitive law enforcement operations.

b. The Sensitive Activities and Law Enforcement Support Division (ACI-300), is the FAA focal point within ACI for all support requests for sensitive national defense and sensitive law enforcement operations. Therefore, all FAA elements receiving requests to support these operations will refer the requester to the Division Manager, ACI-300.

c. This requirement does not apply to requests made by the military for support to classified air traffic movements. Nor does it apply to the routine and appropriate sharing of information with other agencies; e.g., checking of "N" numbers, etc.

d. However, it does apply to requests for changes to data in the FAA Registry; for special consideration requests regarding interpretations of Federal Aviation Regulations by U.S. Federal law enforcement, military and intelligence agencies, and by state and local law enforcement agencies; and/or changes to FAA policies in support of sensitive national defense and sensitive law enforcement operations.

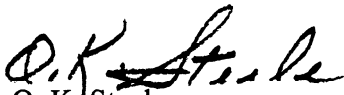
e. FAA elements that have pre-existing agreements in support of sensitive national defense and sensitive law enforcement operations will report details of their support arrangements to the Division Manager, ACI-300, and will request that the sensitive national defense/sensitive law enforcement agency contact ACI-300 as well. FAA elements providing information on classified and/or sensitive national defense operations must coordinate these activities through their regional security office in order to transmit information via secure means.

f. Furthermore, all FAA managers are charged with notifying FAA employees that the Administrator has directed that FAA support to any sensitive national defense and/or sensitive law enforcement operations must first be coordinated with ACI. ACI in turn will validate the support requirements with the requesting agency at the national level, and will then coordinate the requirements at the appropriate FAA executive office level.

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g. ACI will ensure that only those persons with an absolute need-to-know are advised of the information regarding the operation and the support rendered by FAA. ACI will also ensure that the necessary security precautions and oversight provided have been consistent with the Administrator's requirements.

5 ACI RESPONSIBILITIES. In addition to providing centralized oversight and coordination of requests for FAA support for sensitive operations; ACI-300 will also keep the Administrator, and appropriate senior staff, apprised in order that they may make informed decisions.



O. K. Steele

Assistant Administrator for
Civil Aviation Security

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